



THE SAFETY NET

A newsletter of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security

January 2009

Our mission is to promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware

VICTIMS CAN NOW MONITOR INMATE CUSTODY CHANGES

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and Safety and Homeland Security Secretary David B. Mitchell unveiled a new internet-based system that allows crime victims to receive real-time information about the custody status of inmates.

Delaware's Victim Information Notification Everyday (V.I.N.E.) system makes information about prison transfer, release or escape readily, accessible 24-hours a day. Crime victims and other concerned citizens can access the free, anonymous service by calling 1-877-DE8-VINE or going to www.vinelink.com to obtain reliable information about the custody status of inmates.

"The implementation of the VINE system further enhances Delaware's victim rights services. This will restore peace of mind and help citizens reestablish control in their lives by allowing them to become more informed. VINE also will help empower victims to move forward with their lives," said Governor Minner.

The VINE system also provides informational alerts to registered users by phone or email when an inmate's custody status changes due to transfer, release or escape. Victims can register multiple phone numbers and email addresses for the alerts.

"Being the victim of a crime is often quite frightening. This new service is a quick and easy way for victims to obtain vital information needed to regain a sense of personal safety," said DSHS Secretary Mitchell.

Receiving accurate and timely information regarding an inmate's custody status is as easy as picking up the phone or going online. DSHS is partnering with the Department of Justice to increase public awareness and educate Delawareans about VINE. VINE, provided by DSHS in cooperation with DELJIS, became fully operational in June. DSHS received a \$250,000 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement the program in Delaware.♦



Debra Puglisi, expressed her gratitude for implementation of the VINE system. Gov. Minner and Nicole Wilson of DELJIS watch as she registers to receive VINE alerts.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY RELOCATES TO BLUE HEN CORPORATE CENTER



The Office of the Secretary, the Office of Highway Safety and the Division of Boiler Safety relocated its offices to the Blue Hen Corporate Center. All contact numbers for the offices remain the same. The new mailing address is Delaware Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security, Blue Hen Corporate Center, P.O. Box 818, 655 S. Bay Road, Suite 5N, Dover, DE 19903.♦

LIFE CONFERENCE XI

The annual Life Conference, recently held at the Dover Sheraton, is developed by key Delaware consumer-focused organizations that serve persons with disabilities and their families. The Conference provides information on legislative issues, education, family, and independence projects. The keynote speaker was Matt Salo, Director, Health and Human Services Committee, National Governors Association. The Delaware Developmental Disability Council and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities supported the conference. Look for LIFE Conference photos in the next issue.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



When I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of our Department's numerous successes and accomplishments. None of these would have been possible without you.

I take great pride in leading the Safety and Homeland Security team comprised of so many talented individuals. It is because of your commitment to the Department and our mission that we have been able to serve the citizens of our great State.

The coming year will be a challenging one given the State's current fiscal restraints. Our Department, along with other State agencies, will feel the impact. I expect that we will have to further tighten our belts to weather these tough fi-

nancial times. We will need to be resourceful to continue to meet the needs of citizens given the current budgets forecasts.

Government agencies in surrounding states are facing the same dilemma of trying to maintain services and balance budgets as revenues continue to decline. Frankly, due to prudent fiscal management, Delaware's fiscal concerns pale in comparison to these other regions.

This is not the first time our Department has been asked to work with lean budgets. I am quite confident that we will rise to the occasion as we have in the past.

I extend my thanks to each of you for your hard work and dedication. Best wishes and cheer to you and your families in the New Year.

David B. Mitchell, J.D.

DSP SGT. SULLIVAN NAMED DATE DIRECTOR

Delaware State Police Sgt. (Ret.) Siobhan G. Sullivan was recently named Director of the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE).

"Director Sullivan recently completed an exemplary career with the Delaware State Police and possesses the qualities needed to effectively lead the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement. Her leadership skills combined with her experience will prove very valuable for DATE," said Secretary Mitchell.

Director Sullivan began her career with DSP in 1987 in the Patrol Section and quickly demonstrated the skills and knowledge needed to move into a newly formed Governor's Task Force (GTF). The GTF paired State Police with members of Probation and Parole to proactively monitor recently released inmates to ensure they maintain compliance with the conditions of their release. In 1990, Director Sullivan moved into the Special Investigations Unit and began a successful career as an undercover detective. After two years, she was selected to serve as Drill Instructor at the DSP Academy. She was then selected to serve in the Executive Protection Unit and remained in this position until her recent retirement. While assigned to Executive Protection, she served as the Assistant Commander and was later promoted to Commander of the Unit.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Wilmington University. She also attended the US Secret Service Executive Protection School and the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center. During her DSP career, she received two Lifesaving Awards and two Superintendent Citations.



STUDENT DISASTER EDUCATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED

The Delaware State Police and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency partnered with the Department of Education to implement a new program that teaches students about personal emergency preparedness. DSP School Resource Officers will present preparedness information to high school students statewide.

The program was initiated at Caesar Rodney High School. Secretary Mitchell, Education Secretary Valerie Woodruff, Caesar Rodney District Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald, DSP Col. Thomas MacLeish and Caesar Rodney High School Principal Elvina Knight participated in the kick-off ceremony. DEMA Citizen Corp Coordinators Bob George and Marny McLee worked with DSP Sgt. Jennifer Griffin on program development and implementation.

Pictured: Col. MacLeish presents CR Principal Knight with an emergency preparedness kit.

HIGHWAY SAFETY



FIRST OHS STATEWIDE HIGHWAY SAFETY CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL

Over 200 safety advocates, law enforcement officers, medical personnel, driver education teachers, judges, engineers, and members of the corporate community gathered for the Office of Highway Safety's first-ever Statewide Highway Safety Conference. Attendees heard from both local and national experts on a variety of traffic safety topics including impaired driving, aggressive driving, and occupant protection issues during the three-day conference. Plans are already underway for second conference to occur in mid-October.

ANNUAL SAFE FAMILY HOLIDAY ENFORCEMENT RESULTS IN DUI ARRESTS

Delaware law enforcement officers arrested 163 people for driving under the influence (DUI) between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. The enforcement was conducted as part of the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) annual Safe Family Holiday Campaign which includes a combination of high visibility enforcement, public awareness activities, and media messaging aimed at stopping impaired and other dangerous drivers. A total of 30 DUI checkpoints and 276 saturation patrols were scheduled during the campaign. Twenty-one state and local law enforcement agencies participated. Police also made 244 arrests for speeding violations, 122 seat belt citations, and issued another 221 citations for a variety of other traffic violations.



Now's the Time. Resolve to Be Ready in 2009

This year, nearly 50 percent of Americans will make at least one resolution as they look toward 2009. The Department encourages you to make emergency preparation your resolution. It takes three steps:

- Get an emergency supply kit;
- Make a family emergency plan;
- Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and their appropriate responses.



Visit www.ready.gov to learn how to prepare your family, home and business for all types of emergencies including natural and man-made disasters.

Resolve to Be Ready in 2009.

DEMA News

DEMA JOINS REGIONAL POWER OUTAGE EXERCISE

In October, Delaware joined other states in FEMA Region III in an exercise that featured a massive power grid outage scenario. DEMA and 15 more entities from the State participated. A key objective of DEMA was to demonstrate the ability of the Agency to move and operate from an alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Local Emergency Operations Centers were in communication with the alternate EOC. For the first time in an exercise, the Delaware Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and Citizen Corps CERT participated and demonstrated the ability to marshal significant volunteer resources in the State. In addition, the Joint Information Center requested volunteers to help distribute information when broadcast media was crippled. The Citizen Corps Communications Corps, represented by members of Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), actively participated in the exercise, completing messaging tasks in the face of a simulated phone outage. In Delaware, nearly 300 individuals participated in this functional exercise.



DEMA DISTRIBUTES POTASSIUM IODIDE

The Delaware Emergency Management Agency and the Division of Public Health hosted two public sessions to distribute potassium iodide (KI) to Delawareans in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). This includes Delawareans residing, working or going to school within 10 miles of the Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations. The New Castle County Office of Emergency Management also supported the mission. At both sessions, expired KI supplies were collected, and new supplies were distributed. Adult dosage tablets and child dosage tablets were distributed. The potassium iodide supplies were provided for approximately 1,246 adults and 871 children. In 2007, a total of 2,830 people were served.

CAPITOL POLICE

WOMAN ENTERS FAMILY COURT BUILDING WITH CONCEALED WEAPON

The Capitol Police Court Section arrested a woman who entered the Family Court Building with a cane containing a concealed weapon. When the black cane was sent through the x-ray scanner, the concealed blade was visible. Security officers unscrewed the silver top on the cane and discovered a 16" blade attached to the cane. The woman was arrested and charged with possession of a concealed deadly weapon. She was arraigned and released on a \$500 unsecured bond.



DSHS CHOICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

CHOICE AWARD (2nd Quarter) - DEMA Radiological Emergency Preparedness Staff



Pictured: (l to r) DEMA Director Jamie Turner, REP Supervisor Janet Chomiszak, Eddie Walton, Patty Smerkowski, Maureen Murray, Dan Rose, Nancy Wyatt and Sec. Mitchell.

The Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) staff were awarded the DSHS Choice Award for the Second Quarter. These staff members were directly responsible for the highly successful demonstration of Delaware's preparedness for an accident involving a nuclear power plant located at the Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations in New Jersey.

The REP team (Janet Chomiszak, Dan Rose, Maureen Murray, Patty Smerkowski, Nancy Wyatt, and Arthur Paul) was instrumental in preparing Delaware's response organizations and responders for the federally-graded, bi-annual exercise conducted with Public Service Enterprise Group, LLC as well as the State of New Jersey. This exercise was an assessment of Delaware's preparedness for a response to a radiological incident at one of the three nuclear power stations within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), including Delaware.

This exercise outcome is especially noteworthy because Delaware's responders performed extremely well throughout the exercise. This is a tribute to the REP staff's attention to detail and thorough preparation. Preparations included planning activities, as well as equipping and training radiological responders. The bottom line of the exercise was that Delaware did not receive a single Deficiency or Area Requiring Corrective Action, and only received three minor planning issues, which were corrected within 30 days. This is an unprecedented achievement for Delaware.

CHOICE AWARD (3rd Quarter) — Dwayne Kelley — Division of Communications



Pictured: (l to r) Director Bob Pedersen, Division of Communications, Steve Breedlove, Dwayne Kelley and Sec. Mitchell. Mr. Breedlove, also a DivComm employee, nominated Mr. Kelley for the Choice Award.

Dwayne Kelley, a Telecom/Network Technician IV, has become the "Go To" man when it comes to the completion of several projects within the Division of Communications. He has taken the lead on the project involving the new NICE recording equipment and associated networks. He has taken the time to teach other employees about the NICE recording equipment. He is a rare example of the meaning of teamwork.

In addition, he has devoted considerable time and effort in addressing the concerns of the Wilmington Police Dispatch section, the New Castle County Recom 911 center, and the Suscom 911 center concerns. He has been known to use his personal cell phone in these efforts to such an extent that he was eventually provided with one by management.

Dwayne has continued to work tirelessly on the MMS system including applying all MMS updates as they become available from Counterpoint Software, Inc. This effort enhances the productivity of all Divcom employees as we could not work efficiently without MMS.

Dwayne also went well beyond expectations when he printed the new T1 mapping charts for use by the DivComm employees and provided technical expertise to resize and format these large illustrative documents. He single-handedly put together a presentation for the recent DTI Technology Conference. He also personally made the presentation which brought a shining light upon the Division and some of the tasks they perform. Dwayne is an encouragement to all of his coworkers.